

STANLEY,

JANUARY 31ST, 1899.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present you with my report for the year 1898, giving the amount of sickness from Zymotic Diseases, Vital Statistics, and an account of the work done in the Inspector's Department.

**Zymotic Diseases.** The number of notifiable diseases reported to me amounted to 77, consisting of the following, viz :—Scarlatina, 53 ; Enteric Fever, 16 ; Erysipelas, 7 ; and Puerperal Fever, 1. The totals for the year 1897 were 51, the difference being entirely due to the greater number of cases of Scarlatina in 1898. The non-notifiable infectious diseases coming under my notice were 21 of Measles and 27 of Whooping Cough, against 200 of the former and 50 of the latter in the preceding year.

**Scarlatina.** A case of this disease was in existence in January, being the last of an outbreak of the previous year. In April, it appeared in Stanley by importation, and several cases followed. In June it again appeared simultaneously in Stanley and Shield Row, and apparently from both sources cases continued to occur until the end of November. The portion of the district affected was limited to Havanna, Stanley, East Stanley, and Shield Row.

**Enteric Fever.** From a sanitary point of view Enteric or Typhoid Fever is one of the most important of infectious diseases. The order in which the cases occurred with the districts where they resided were as follows :—In February one case in Front Street, Stanley ; in March five in Scott's Houses, Havanna ; in April one each at Shield Row, John Street, South Moor, and Towneley Street, Stanley ; in May four at Scott's Houses, Havanna ; in June one at John Street, South Moor ; in October one at Forster's Houses, Havanna, and one in the same block of houses in December. The origin of the first on the list was not traced. All the next batch contracted the disease within ten days of each other, shewing much like a common origin. The Shield Row case and also that at South Moor were traceable to Havanna. The Towneley Street case acquired the infection outside the district. Those at Havanna in May were either due to direct contact or what may be equally likely the disturbance of impregnated surface soil in



the work of replacing open channels by sewer drains. The June South Moor case lived a few doors from the one already mentioned. Nothing was found to account for the first case in Forster's Houses, but most probably it produced the second. Four patients were sent to the Isolation Hospital.

**Erysipelas** might be eliminated from the list of infectious diseases, as regards all the cases notified during the year.

**Puerperal Fever.** The only case succumbed early, and might or might not have been specific fever.

**Diarrhoea** was very prevalent during the hot dry weather, especially amongst children, helping considerably to swell the death roll, under the name of Gastro-Enteritis. It is classed in the infectious diseases, but whatever its mode of propagation may be the fact remains that cleanliness is the best protection against it.

**Measles.** A case of Measles was imported from the adjoining district, and before being recognised infected three more children. All were effectually isolated. A visitor brought it in May, and this case was also isolated. In October there were two cases and in November two more. All lived separately and all acquired it by visiting in the adjoining district where it was prevalent. Isolation was carried out successfully on each occasion.

**Whooping Cough.** In February a visitor imported the disease, the same thing occurred in June and again in November, a few cases followed the second and third outbreaks.

The Joint Hospital Board consisting of members of the various Urban and Rural District Councils comprising the Lanchester Union intend having a Hospital for Infectious Diseases constructed as soon as possible. The Hospital is to provide accommodation for the Stanley, Anfield Plain and Tanfield districts and a fairly central site has been selected.

The district contains neither trades nor manufactories injurious to health. The staple industry is coal mining and although the coal is soft and dusty, the disease known as 'Miners' Asthma' is conspicuous by its absence.



It is too early to express any decided opinion upon the New Vaccination Act. So far the "conscientious objectors" have not been numerous. The advantage of having vaccinations performed at their own residence, together with the fact that the lymph supplied is guaranteed to be pure may induce a greater number to accept the services of the public vaccinator and have the operation efficiently done and thereby do away to a great extent with private vaccination that is invariably imperfect.

#### **Vital Statistics.**

The number of births registered during the year amounted to 508 and the deaths to 238—including residents dying in the Workhouse, Asylum and Hospital. The birth-rate is equal to 39 per 1,000, and the death-rate to 18, estimating the population at 13,000. The births give 116 more and the deaths 38 more than the previous year. The death list was highest in the month of September—due to the cause already stated—and lowest in January and December. Deaths from all forms of infectious diseases were as follows, viz :—Scarlatina 4, Enteric Fever 6, Croup 1, Puerperal Fever 1, Whooping Cough 4, and Diarrhoea 5. Infantile mortality was chiefly responsible for the high death-rate, no less than 104 died under the age of one year; this represents nearly half of the whole deaths, and by the addition of 35 between the ages of one and five years it will be seen that considerably over the half succumbed before reaching five years of age. Preventable diseases play a small part in causing the excessive mortality in children, only eleven deaths were due to the various forms.

## **Inspector's Department.**

**65 New Houses** were built having their sanitary requirements complete.

**Old Property.** Houses situated at Shield Row, Shield Row Old Engine and Havanna have been put into good repair—the latter numbering 44 were also ceiled, but there still remains to be dealt with in their order of importance the insanitary houses at Oxhill Red Row, Shield Row, Oxhill and South Moor. It would add greatly to the comfort of the occupants, if the owners of the houses at Old South Moor could be induced to ceil the bedrooms.

**Out-offices.** Additional out-offices have been built wherever they were required. Several defective ones were either repaired or re-built, but not one of the objectionable open privy-middens has been re-modelled. The condition of a number of privies attached to Oxhill Rows is most unsatisfactory.



**Sewers** were laid in South Moor Lane, and also at Oxhill, the latter replacing old ones. A sewer is urgently needed between Havanna and Shield Row Villas to convey the sewage past Oakeys Cottages. The construction of the last-named, and an additional piece at Shield Row, would complete the District.

**Sewage Disposal.** The Out-fall Works at Sonth Moor in course of construction, will be ready for use shortly. They consist of a Sludge Tank followed by Filtration Beds, after the plan adopted at Sutton. The arrangements of the Works reflect great credit on your Surveyor, and they will undoubtedly prove a perfect success. As the Works referred to only deal with about a third of the Sewage, it is equally necessary to arrange some method for the treatment of the remaining two-thirds.

**Seavenging and Removal of Refuse.** Both Scavenging and Refuse Removal have been carried out satisfactorily under the close supervision of your Inspector..

There are two licensed Lodging Houses, one is kept in a cleanly condition, the other is frequently quite the reverse. The act applying to cowsheds and dairies has not yet been adopted, each place however was visited and found to be satisfactory.

**Slaughter Houses and Bakeries** are generally in good order. No prosecutions under the Food and Drugs Act was necessary. The water supply is good and abundant.

Attached are Schedules of Sickness and Death.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

**T. BENSON,**

Medical Officer.

The Urban District Council,  
Stanley.



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# TABLE OF DEATHS

Classified according to Diseases and Ages.



				UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.	FIVE YEARS OF AGE AND UPWARDS.
Scarlatina	...	...	...	1	3
Membranous Croup	...	...	...	1	0
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	0	6
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	0	1
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	4	0
Diarrhoea and Dysentery	...	...	...	5	0
Rheumatic Fever	...	...	...	0	1
Phthisis	...	...	...	0	16
Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy			...	19	12
Heart Disease	...	...	...	2	16
Influenza	...	...	...	0	1
Injuries	...	...	...	9	8
All other Diseases	...	...	...	107	35
				<hr/>	<hr/>
				139	99
				<hr/>	<hr/>
Under One Year of Age...			...	...	104
One and under Five	...	...	...	35	
Five and under Fifteen	...	...	...	12	
Fifteen and under Twenty-five	...	...	...	21	
Twenty-five and under Sixty-five	...	...	...	49	
Sixty-five and upwards	...	...	...	17	
				<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	-	-		238	
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STANLEY

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

FOR THE YEAR 1898.

STANLEY,  
JANUARY 31ST, 1899.